Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~catheter~~ transseptal apparatus of claim ~~17~~ 21, wherein the catheter further ~~comprising~~ comprises first and second electrical leads in electrical communication with the first and second electrodes, and first and second cables at the proximate end of the catheter, wherein the first and second cables are in electrical communication with the first and second electrical leads and are configured to be attached to ~~a~~ the recording device ~~for recording electrograms~~.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A transseptal apparatus for locating the fossa ovalis in a patient and performing a transseptal puncture of the fossa ovalis, comprising:

(a) a hollow sheath having a distal end;

(b) ~~the catheter of claim 11~~ a catheter for use in transseptal punctures, comprising:

(i) a hollow lumen;

(ii) a first electrode positioned at the distal end of the catheter; and

(iii) a second electrode positioned on the catheter and spaced proximally from the first electrode;

wherein the catheter is configured to be inserted into the hollow sheath for a transseptal puncture and to receive a transseptal needle urged through the lumen until the tip of the needle protrudes beyond the distal end of the catheter and wherein the catheter removably contacts the hollow sheath,

wherein the catheter is configured such that the distal end of the catheter serves as both an electrophysiology mapping catheter for locating the fossa ovalis and a dilator suitable for penetrating the fossa ovalis during a transseptal puncture procedure by urging the catheter over a transseptal needle positioned within the lumen of the catheter, and

wherein the first electrode and the second electrode are each configured to concurrently obtain both unipolar and bipolar measurements to provide for the electrophysiology mapping; and

(c) a recording device for recording electrograms, the recording device in electrical communication with the electrodes of the catheter.

22-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A transseptal apparatus for locating the fossa ovalis in a patient and performing a transseptal puncture of the fossa ovalis, comprising:

(a) a hollow sheath having a distal end;

(b) ~~the catheter of claim 11~~ a catheter for use in transseptal punctures, comprising:

(i) a hollow lumen;

(ii) a first electrode positioned at the distal end of the catheter; and

(iii) a second electrode positioned on the catheter and spaced proximally from the first electrode;

wherein the catheter is configured to be inserted into the hollow sheath for a transseptal puncture and to receive a transseptal needle urged through the lumen until the tip of the needle protrudes beyond the distal end of the catheter and wherein the catheter removably contacts the hollow sheath,

wherein the catheter is configured such that the distal end of the catheter serves as both an electrophysiology mapping catheter for locating the fossa ovalis and a dilator suitable for penetrating the fossa ovalis during a transseptal puncture procedure by urging the catheter over a transseptal needle positioned within the lumen of the catheter, and

wherein the first electrode and the second electrode are each configured to concurrently obtain both unipolar and bipolar measurements to provide for the electrophysiology mapping;

(c) a recording device for recording electrograms, the recording device in electrical communication with the electrodes;

wherein the catheter is configured such that a transseptal needle may be urged through the lumen until the tip of the needle protrudes beyond the distal end of the catheter; and

further wherein the transseptal apparatus is configured such that a user may identify the fossa ovalis of patient on the basis of at least one of the following parameters: unipolar voltage

reduction; signal fractionation; broadened signal; reduced signal slew rate; reduced local myocardial impedance; increased phase angle; and increased pacing threshold.

37. (Currently Amended) The transseptal apparatus of claim ~~37~~ 36, wherein the distal end of the catheter is tapered, and the second electrode is spaced from the first electrode by a distance of between about 2 and about 4 mm.